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REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in connection with the interview held with the Examiner.

During the interview several issues were raised by the Examiner.

First of all the Examiner indicated that in her opinion claims 5, 8 and 9 could be considered as allowable over the art.

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of these claims has been gratefully acknowledged.

In connection with this, claims 5, 8, and 9 have been rewritten in independent form, and claim 8 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

It is believed that claims 5, 8 and 9 as amended to make them independent and they should be considered as allowable.

The Examiner also raised the question with respect to claim 6, in particular the language that the processing tool can be a chip-removing tool or a non-chip removing tool. It is respectfully submitted that the terms used in this claim are well known and generally acceptable. A chip-removing tool is a tool which during operation removes a material of a workpiece in form of chips, such as for example a drill, a mill, etc., while a non-chip-removing tool is a tool which does not remove any material from the workpiece in form of chips, such as for example a punch.

The reference which the Examiner located and made available during the conference has been carefully considered. The reference, namely the patent to Kozin, discloses a sensor system for drill bits which generates by means of a sensor-processor arrangement a displacement-proportional first signal, a force-proportional second signal and a working-depth proportional third signal. The background of this invention corresponds to the scope of the patent to Neu and patent to Martinez, namely to provide a drill bit penetration measurement system which detects different material characteristics of the processed workpiece with the effect that the drill bit cutting velocity can be adjusted to the material properties (the material density).

It is true that the patent to Kozin discloses an arrangement which is based on the measurement of similar or the same parameters as in the applicant's invention. The difference however is that in the applicant's invention the depth of the bore is detected and memorized, with the effect that the connection element (for example a rivet) can be selected, dependent of the sensed depth of the bore. The references need the sensed parameters to adapt the movement of the drill bit (the rpm) to the material properties of the penetrated material layers.

The method in accordance with the present invention which includes the determination or detection of the drilling depth, the memorization of the determined drilling depth, and the use of the determined and memorized drilling depth as an input for choosing or selecting the connection element is not disclosed in the patent to Kozin. The memorization in the sense of the present invention is the disclosed printing and spray painting (claim 5) or electronic storage of the sensed drilling depth in the evaluation unit 20.

With the present Supplemental Amendment, applicants amended claims 1 and 18 to define these new features of the present invention.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 18 should also be considered as patentably distinguishing over the art and should also be allowed, together with other claims which depend on claim 1.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,

  
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